

Rhode Island Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (RI HPLRP)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Michael Fine, MD	Chair, RI Department of Health (HEALTH)
Linda Gillette	Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University
Steven DeToy	RI Medical Society
Linda Makhoulf	RI Higher Education Assistance Authority
Steven Brown, DMD	RI Dental Association
Jane Hayward	RI Health Center Association

BOARD MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Donna Policastro, APRN-BC	RI State Nurses Association
Mary Sullivan	URI College of Nursing

GUESTS:

Gina Rocha	Hospital Association of Rhode Island
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STAFF TO BOARD:

Margaret I. Gradie	HEALTH
Jane Morgan	HEALTH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Seema Dixit, MS. MPH	HEALTH
Ana Novais, MA	HEALTH

I. Open Meeting/ Welcome and Introductions

The meeting called to order at 10:00 AM

Dr. Fine opened the meeting and asked all members present to introduce themselves.

II. Comments from Dr. Fine

Dr. Fine commented on the success of Rhode Island in raising matching funds for loan repayment. He hopes that the future will see increased financial support for the program.

III. Introduction of new committee member

Gina Rocha, Vice President for Clinical Affairs at the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) was introduced as the new member for HARI. She has not yet been formally appointed. Jane Morgan, legal counsel to the Board, clarified that Gina could attend as a guest, but could not vote.

IV. Review of updated loan repayment manual and scoring rubric

Margaret Gradie reviewed the contents of the updated Board manual which contains items that are unchanging (statute and regulations governing the Board) and those items the Board must approve (application form and contract).

There followed a discussion of the scoring rubric, specifically the Community Needs Index (CNI) which is used to score locations, rather than the HPSA score. Dr. Fine has asked Margaret to do an analysis of the CNI. He has also requested that the scoring team include members from outside the Department of Health. Members of the Board volunteered to read and score essays.

Margaret commented that the scoring process had undergone a Quality Improvement review which had improved the process significantly, but that during this application cycle had identified points for further improvement.

Dr. Fine asked for approval of the scoring process as presented. The motion was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

V. Closed Meeting/Review of Applicants

A motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn open session and move to a closed session to discuss matters exempt from discussion at open meetings under Rhode Island General Law 42-46-4 (Open Meeting Act).

The meeting moved into closed session for the purpose of reviewing applicants for the loan repayment program. All applicants have been informed that their application would be discussed in a closed session of the Board.

VI. Open meeting/Report out on closed session

A motion to open the meeting was made by Steven DeToy, seconded by Steve Brown and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Steven DeToy to seal the minutes of the closed session, seconded by Steven Brown and passed unanimously.

Dr. Fine requested a report-out of actions taken during closed session.

The following actions were taken during closed session:

1. The award recipients and amounts as presented by Department of Health staff were approved by the Board contingent on verification of loans.
2. The discussed the methodology by which awards were made and asked Department of Health staff to return to the Board with the federal guidelines and a breakdown of how the dollars were distributed to each recipient.
3. The Board approved the use of the current methodology to re-distribute any funds that become available should any recipient decline their award.

The motion to use the current methodology to redistribute any funds that become available should any recipient decline their award was presented again in open session and approved unanimously.

The date of the next Board meeting was set as June 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55.